

**Northern Distribution Records for *Tachysphex terminatus* (Smith)
(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae, Larrinae)**

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Abstract: Specimens of *Tachysphex terminatus* (Smith) were collected from localities in Alberta and Alaska during June, 1971; these localities are considerably north of the previously known range of the species.

Tachysphex terminatus (Smith) is a small black digger wasp, common in sandy habitats throughout much of North America. G. E. Bohart in Muesebeck, *et al.*, 1951 listed the range of the species from Ontario and British Columbia extending south to Arizona and Georgia.

As part of a study of morphological variation in this species (Elliott, 1971), specimens of *T. terminatus* from 61 museum collections in the United States and Canada were examined. Northern records found among these specimens are as follows:

1 ♂ Hull, Quebec, 21 July, 1947 (W. R. Mason); Lakeside, Quebec (J. W. Buckle): 1 ♂ 24 June, 1931; 2 ♀ 11 July, 1931; 5 ♀ 16 July, 1931; 5 ♀ 19 July, 1931; 1 ♀ 22 July, 1931; 2 ♀ 23 July, 1931; 1 ♀ 24 July, 1931; 4 ♀, 5 ♂ 27 July, 1931; 3 ♀ 28 July, 1931; 1 ♀ 30 July, 1931; 2 ♀, 1 ♂ 1 August, 1931; 1 ♀ 2 August, 1931; 2 ♀ 3 August, 1931; 1 ♂ 8 August, 1931; 1 ♂ Lanoraie, Quebec, 24 June, 1924 (J. W. Buckle); 1 ♂ St. Hilaire, Quebec, 30 July, 1927 (J. W. Buckle); 1 ♀ Ottawa, Ontario 24 July, 1947 (W. R. Mason); 1 ♀ Ottawa, Ontario, 31 August, 1947 (W. R. Mason); 1 ♂ Cape Breton National Park, Nova Scotia, 5 August, 1954 (A. & H. Dietrich); 1 ♀ Prince Edward Island National Park, Prince Edward Island, 25 August, 1953 (E. L. Kessel); 1 ♀ Vernon, British Columbia, 5 August, 1947 (Hugh B. Leech).

The northernmost extension of the recorded collection localities is approximately 50.5° north latitude for Vernon, British Columbia. In the summer of 1971, we collected samples of *T. terminatus* which greatly extend the northern limit of its range. Collection data for these samples along with approximate latitude of each locality are as follows:

4 ♀, 3 ♂ Whitecourt, Alberta, 20 June, 1971 (54° N); 3 ♀, 42 ♂ Mile 1246 Alaska Highway, Alaska, 23 June, 1971 (60° N).

Specimens from both these populations exhibited normal abdominal color patterns for members of this species found west of the Rockies; males were all-black, while females had red-tipped abdomens, unlike individuals from eastern populations in which individuals of both sexes are generally red-tipped.

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Literature Cited

- ELLIOTT, N. B. 1971. Morphological variation in *Tachysphex terminatus* (Smith) and *Tachysphex similis* Rohwer (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae, Larrinae). SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, N.Y. Ph.D. thesis.
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